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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)

International File No. PCT/EP2004/052915

Re Point V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and commercial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1) Documents cited

D1: EP-A-0 869 265

D2: US-A-4,896,409

2) Lack of novelty

The present patent application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the object of Claims 1 and 4 through 8 is not novel as defined in Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 (see Figure 1) discloses a method for manufacturing a solid housing that may be a valve housing, where the housing has at least three zones (2, 4, 6) and two directly adjacent zones have different magnetic properties, according to the present Claim 1.

D1 discloses the use of sheet metal plates having different material properties or of two different types of sheet metal which naturally have different magnetic properties.

D1 also discloses the methods of the dependent Claims 4 through 8.

3) Lack of inventive step

The object of Claims 2 and 3 is not based on an inventive step as defined in Article 33(3).

The additional features of these claims are known from D2. It would be self-evident to those skilled in the art to combine the method known from D1 with the features known from D2 in order to manufacture valve housings in such a way as to arrive at the object of Claim 2 or 3.